

AFTER LONG ABSENCE.

Here in this room where first we met,
And where we said farewell with tears,
Where you swore, "Though you for-
get,
My love shall deeper grow with years!"
Here, where the pictures on the wall,
The very rugs upon the floor,
The smallest objects you recall—
I am awaiting you once more.

The books that we together read
From off their shelves they beckon me;
All here seems living—what is dead?
What is the ghost I fear to see?

Unchanged am I: did you desire
My love as small?—it fills my heart!
You come, a stranger from your eyes
Looks out, and meeting first we part!
—Edith Christy, "The Olden Days."

A TELEPHONE RIDE.

"She hath a lovely voice," lisped
Simpkinson Potter.

"And she must be handsome," re-
marked young Gubbins, with a know-
ing pull at a cigarette. "It has
always been my experience that
women with musical voices are good
looking."

They were talking about their tele-
phone girl—who who flirted with them
so naively over the wires.

"She is quite young, too, you know,"
continued Mr. Potter, picking a car-
nation to pieces, "because she con-
fided to me that she wath'n't out yet.
Just faintly!"

"You fellows ought to warn your
Diana of the cross-wires to be more
careful," growled Barker, head clerk
and general Diogenes in the famous
law office of Lastwill & Testament.

"When his ma eyst the senior partner
called upon the law courts this morn-
ing she halloed back and wanted to
know if that wasn't Charlie. The
old man turned purple and threatened
to see the superintendent."

"She must have thought it was
Charlie Dennison," said Gubbins.

"They are getting to be a great deal
too thick of late, and last night I
heard him ask her to go out driving
this afternoon."

"Bah! Jove!" ejaculated Simpkinson
Potter. "Of course she refused."

"No, she didn't," replied Gubbins,
"because he said: No. 1000 Smith
street. All right, Miss Mellerby, I'll
be there on time." But here comes
the man in question to speak for him-
self.

Charles Dennison entered, arrayed
in clothes of bewildering cut and
wearing an eloquent box coat in the
lapel of which reposed a royal gar-
denia.

"My dear Charles," said Barker, "I
trust you are not going to do any-
thing rash?"

Dennison glanced around the office
with ill-concealed triumph. "I am
going to take our telephone girl, Miss
Mellerby, out driving," he observed,
giving every syllable full emphasis.

To his surprise no one made any
comment on this intelligence. Gub-
bins looked out of the window and
Simpkinson Potter placed his carna-
tion stalk between the leaves of a
law book.

"I do believe," he said at last, that
you knew all about it beforehand."

"All about what?" queried Barker.

"Oh, yes. You have to take some
girl out driving. I'm sure we all
sympathize with you."

"Yeth, indeed, Charlie," exclaimed
Simpkinson Potter, "it's a beathly
nuisance old boy, but never mind.
It will soon be over."

"Be sure to get on Miss Mellerby's
good side," said Gubbins. "My ex-
perience is that telephone girls are
always deaf in one ear."

Dennison waited to hear no more.

"You fellows are just jealous," he said
and a few minutes afterward they saw
him driving a roan mare and a smart
dogcart around the corner.

Arrived at 1600 Smith street Charles
Dennison found the house to be a
model suburban cottage, looking gun-
nily southward and overrun with
flowing creepers.

"Just the place for young love,"
he romantically exclaimed, as he
hitched his roan to a fantastic green
dragon on one of the side posts. "I
wish to goodness Gubbins and that
lispin idiot Potter were here to
watch my meeting with Laura.
I had better not call her Laura,
at first by the way. Things that
sound all right over a tele-
phone wire may be quite startling
when one is brought face to face."
Here Charles opened the gate and
strode up the short gravel path.
Everywhere in the garden he noticed
the traces of a woman's tender care.
"And yet," he murmured, "they talk
about telephone girls only caring for
chewing gum and flirtation."

His ring brought a pleasant faced
matron to the door.

"Mrs. Mellerby, is it not?" asked
Charlie, taking off his hat with his
best air. He had a reputation for
astuteness and was much gratified
when the lady nodded a smiling
assent to his question.

"And you are Charles Dennison, I
suppose?" she said. "We did not
expect you quite so soon, but earliness
is an excellent fault. Won't you
come in?"

Of course Charlie went in re-
marking to himself that Mrs. Mellerby
seemed much better than the general
run of girl's mothers. She could not
be more than 40, he thought, so that
the fair Laura was probably not 20.
Moreover, Mrs. Mellerby's plump
figure and distinct traces of past
beauty promised well for Laura's ap-
pearance.

They entered the pretty little parlor
and sat down. Then Mrs. Mellerby
laughed gayly and said, "Well,
Charlie, which shall we talk about
first, the weather or your dogcart?"
Charlie laughed likewise, although
he thought the use of his Christian
name a little odd.

"Let us talk about the dogcart,"
he said.

"Very well," replied Mrs. Mellerby.
"Under those circumstances I fear
I shall have to begin with a dis-
pointment. The fact is, dear boy, the
girl who was to have taken my place
is sick, and I am obliged to go to the
office this afternoon. I am very sorry
to break off our engagement, but you
see it is impossible for me to go out
driving to-day."

To say that Charlie Dennison
jumped fully a foot from his chair at
this speech would be no exaggeration.
"—I beg your pardon," he ex-
claimed.

If Mrs. Mellerby noticed his startled
expression of countenance she mistook
or pretended to mistake its cause.

"I know it's a shame," she said,
deprecatingly, "but what can I do?
They are very strict at the central
office, and I am obliged to go. When
you called me out yesterday, Charlie,
I felt sure of getting off this after-
noon. Now I am compelled to answer
helloes from all parts of the city for
six weary hours. After all it is just
as hard on me as on you."

By this time Charlie Dennison had
managed to collect his thoughts. But
what thoughts! So this old woman
was the "Laura" of his dream, the
fair telephone ingenue whose flirta-
tions seemed but ant with breezy g-
lishness. How the boys would laugh
if they knew. It was a kind fate
which had saved him from this afflic-
tion. In his heart he blessed that
other woman who had fallen sick at
such a propitious time.

"Please don't be mad about it,
Charlie," said Mrs. Mellerby.

Charlie was obliged to say some-
thing. "A man can't help being a
little disappointed, you know," he
stammered hypocritically. "I really
counted on taking you out driving.
Now I shall have to drive all alone."

Here, with something of his
pristine spirit, he contrived to make
a wry face suitable to the occasion.

Mrs. Mellerby laughed. "Suppose,"
she said, "that I were to provide a
substitute. It is curious that in all
our long telephone talks I never re-
membered to tell you that I am a
widow. But I am and have the
dearest little girl imaginable. I was
going to ask you, if it would not bore
you too much, to take her out for a
short drive in my place. She is just
wild to drive in something else be-
sides a street car."

Poor Charlie's heart, which had al-
most reached its normal condition,
fell rapidly at this suggestion. It
was certainly a case of "out of the
frying-pan," etc. He had only
escaped the horror of being obliged to
squire Mrs. Mellerby through the
city to find himself confronted with
the even more obnoxious alternative
of playing dry nurse to that lady's
"dear little girl." "If you are not
afraid of my mare," he said, with a
painful effort at looking unconcerned,
"I shall be most happy. But I fear
the brute is decidedly restive."

"You are an excellent driver, I'm
sure," replied Mrs. Mellerby, sweetly.
"Yes, I think I can trust my Ger-
tie to your care. Excuse me for a mo-
ment and I will call her."

When Mrs. Mellerby left the room
Charlie Dennison covered his face
with his hands. This, then, was
the punishment of his indiscretion. He
could yet escape, but escape would be
cowardly; and, besides, Mrs. Meller-
by might tell the story to the other
fellows over the telephone. On the
whole it was better to remain and see
the thing out.

His thoughts were interrupted by
the mellifluous voice of Mrs. Mellerby.
"Charlie," murmured that lady, per-
mit me to introduce you to my
daughter, Gertrude."

Charlie Dennison almost shouted
when he beheld the "dear little girl"
who stood in the door. For the "dear
little girl" was as fair a specimen of
eighteen-year-old beauty as ever his
eye had rested on. She was not so
very "little" either, being quite as
tall as her mother, and looking, with
her wavy brown hair and great gray
eyes, like a vivified portrait of that
comely personage taken many years
before.

Charlie's system felt by this time as
if it had undergone a succession of
electric shocks, so that Miss Gertrude's
first impressions of him were hardly
favorable. It is needless to say that
Charlie at once forewore any idea of
flight. He took "his Laura's" daugh-
ter out driving with the lightest heart
in the world, and drove twice beneath
the windows of Lastwill & Testament,
to the unspeakable chagrin of both
Gubbins and Simpkinson Potter.

Mrs. Mellerby no longer occupies
her seat in the central telephone
office, but when she wishes to send
word to the boys in Lastwill & Testa-
ment's she tells her son-in-law,
Charlie Dennison, about it at the
breakfast table.—N. Y. Press.

Europe's Wild Horses.

The wild horses that roam over
Europe in immense herds appear to
have furnished the chief food of
early man in Europe. Enormous re-
fuse heaps, consisting mainly of the
bones of wild horses have been found
outside of the caves, as in those at the
foot of Mount Pellegrino near Pal-
ermo, where the floor is formed of a
magma of the bones of wild horses,
which were either stalked with spears,
driven by the hunters into pitfalls, or
chased over the cliffs. Similar de-
posits have been found at the cave of
Thayngen, in Switzerland, and in
front of the rock shelter at Volp, near
Macon, where there is a vast de-
posit, the relics of the feasts of these
savages nearly 10 feet in thickness,
and more than 300 feet in length,
composed entirely of the bones of
horses and comprising the remains
of from 20,000 to 40,000 individuals.

Same Here.

American Girl.—Is it customary for
some one to give the bride away at a
wedding in England?
Englishman.—Yes.
But the bridegroom is not given
away?
"No; but he is sometimes sold."—
New York Press.

TO AGENTS.

Homeseekers' excursions,
1892, on August 30 and Septem-
ber 17th, a rate of one lowest
first class fair will be made from
eastern points to points on our
line for two homeseekers' ex-
cursions. These tickets will
be sold at all the principal rail-
way points as far east as
Buffalo and Pittsburg. Tick-
ets will be good within twenty
days from the date of sale and
stop overs will be allowed after
passing the Missouri river. It
is expected that there will be
quite a large immigration of
intending settlers to Nebras-
ka, northwestern Kansas and
eastern Colorado, during this
summer and fall. This immi-
gration can be very largely in-
creased by judicious advertis-
ing and work by the various
communities tributary to our
line. It is therefor suggested
that sections proposing to pre-
pare such advertising matter
for distribution in the east in
regard to the inducements
they have to offer the farmer,
the business man and investor,
should begin to get their ad-
vertising in shape at as an
early a date as possible. In
case their plans contemplate
sending a good advertising
man to distribute their matter
and attend to their advertising
generally, this department may
be able to give valuable point-
ers as to the best method of
doing the work.

I think it is desirable that
editors of the papers along
our line should begin agitating
the matter in order that the
people may be prompted to do
more or less individual work
with their friends in the east
in the way of sending by mail
such matter as the different
counties or districts may pre-
pare in pamphlet form or in
the shape of extra editions of
their home newspapers giving
full information as to the re-
sources and advantages, and
directing attention to the very
low rates that will be made to
enable them to come and see
for themselves that the repre-
sentations are not really up to
the reality.

The company has recently
issued a pamphlet in regard
to the agricultural resources
of Nebraska, which will be
furnished free to those who
may desire to mail it to their
friends in the east. This
pamphlet treats of Nebraska,
northwestern Kansas and
eastern Colorado. I wish you
would present this matter to
editors at your place and also
to other parties who may be
interested in settling up va-
cant farm lands of this state.
J. FRANCIS, G. P. and T. A.,
Omaha, Nebraska.

THE plan of placing the national
guard under direct supervision of the
secretary of war and establishing a
bureau of the national guard in the
War department is now discussed
by militia officers all over the coun-
try. At present the appointment
of officers and the authority to train
the militia are reserved to the sev-
eral states. It is thought that bet-
ter results would be accomplished
if the authority to control the state
militia forces were vested in the
War department. The national
military system is regarded as dead
under the present system by those
who have made a study of it, and
the measure which they propose
may prove to be the only one by
which it can be made effective.—
Bee.

TOM PLATT, who was perhaps
the worst beaten gentleman in the
Minneapolis convention, has recov-
ered his usual suavity and comes
out with a cheerful admission that
he is a republican and is going in-
to the fight for Harrison in his us-
ual energetic style, but David B.
Hill has never once whispered that
old refrain of his "I am democrat,"
since the adjournment of the Chi-
cago convention and the terror of
Mr. Whitney visibly increases.—
Journal.

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and bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. Cas-
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which I am acquainted. I hope the day is not
far distant when mothers will consider the real
interest of their children, and use Castoria in-
stead of the various quack nostrums which are
destroying their loved ones, by forcing opium,
morphine, soothing syrup and other harmful
agents down their throats, thereby sending
them to premature graves."

Dr. J. F. KINCHLOE,
Conway, Ark.

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known to me."

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merits of Castoria has won us to look with
favor upon it."

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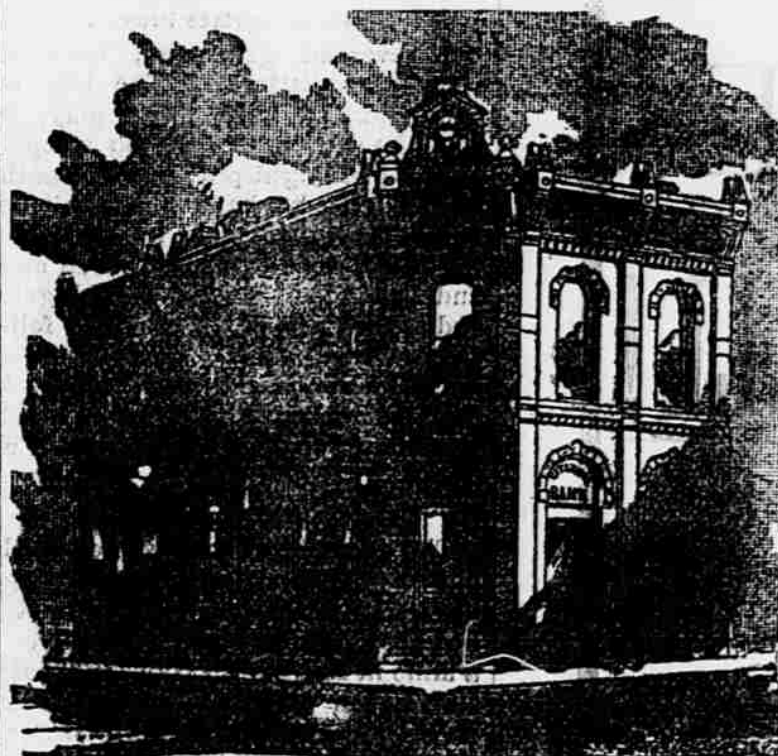
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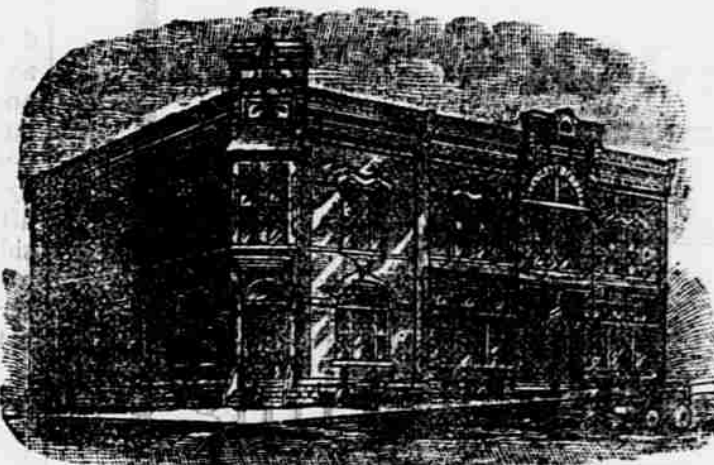
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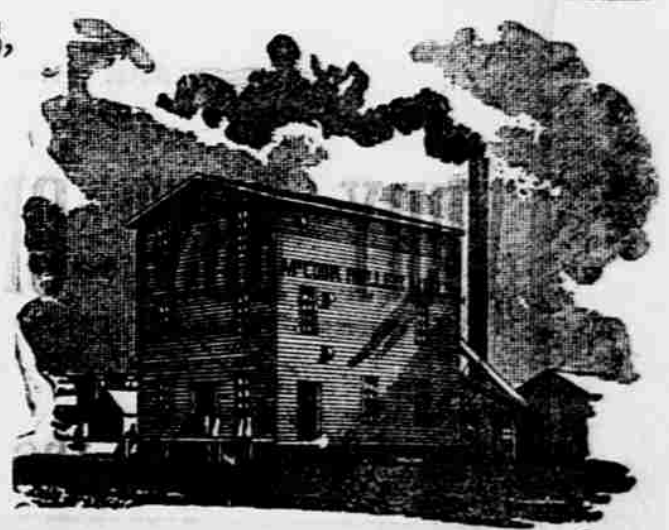
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